



A Natural Fit

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The Student Advanced Training Corps (SATC) was formed during World War I under the leadership of President Parke Kolbe. It was comprised of some three hundred students who were housed, fed, and trained in much-needed areas ranging from vehicle and tire maintenance to engineering. After the war, the Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) was expanded from just forty-five schools to 135. President Kolbe, the Board of Trustees, and faculty agreed that the program would be an asset and petitioned for one of those new units. In 1919, ROTC was stood up at Akron. The 42nd Ohio Volunteer Battalion began and was compulsory for every male student until 1968.

The program continued to grow with the addition of Air Force ROTC right after World War II with the addition of women cadets in the early 1970s and with the encouragement of minority participation over the years. Today, women make up fifty-nine percent of enrollment, and minority enrollment stands at thirty percent.

Without a doubt, ROTC is one of the most successful continual academic programs on campus. For a century now, this program has informed the lives of thousands of students at the University.